

CH-790

1847-1950

**Smoot Property
Charlotte Hall vic.
Private**

The Smoot Property includes an interesting variety of structures reflecting over 150 years of the site's occupation. Of particular interest is the presence of a mid to late 19th century tobacco barn and an 1847 gravestone signed by a Washington D.C. stonemason. The Smoot Property is a 303.54 acre parcel located on the north side of Charles Street at the border between Charles and St. Mary's County. The principal dwelling and a few outbuildings are located in the center of the property and surrounded by relatively flat fields currently under cultivation. This area includes a circa 1940 dwelling, an early 20th century bank barn, a rebuilt late 19th century tobacco barn, and a small previously disturbed family cemetery. To the west is a second cluster of buildings including a late 19th century tenant house, a mid to late 19th century tobacco barn, and two early 20th century tobacco barns.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-790

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Smoot Property
other

2. Location

street and number N. side Charles Street at county line not for publication
city, town Charlotte Hall X vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name H & M Ketts LLC
street and number 18100 At Last Farm Rd. telephone unknown
city, town Aquasco state MD zip code 20608

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 58 p. 7
city, town La Plata liber 2741 folio 59

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>7</u> <u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u> <u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u> </u> <u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u> </u> <u> </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>8</u> <u> </u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:	
		Gravel Mining	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-790

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Smoot Property is a 303.54 acre parcel located on the north side of Charles Street at the border between Charles and St. Mary's County. The northernmost portion of the property is actively being surfaced mined for gravel. The structures are generally clustered in two areas. The principal dwelling and a few outbuildings are located in the center of the property and surrounded by relatively flat fields currently under cultivation. This area includes a circa 1940 dwelling, an early 20th century bank barn, a rebuilt late 19th century tobacco barn, and a small previously disturbed family cemetery. To the west is a second cluster of buildings including a late 19th century tenant house, a mid to late 19th century tobacco barn, and two early 20th century tobacco barns.

The dwelling in the main cluster is a two-story double-pile structure with a full-width one-story porch on the front elevation, an exterior chimney flue on the gable end, and small windows throughout. To the immediate west of the house is a large gambrel-roof bank barn. Although requiring further study, the dwelling and bank barn resemble those built by Amish after their arrival from Pennsylvania in this area of southern Maryland during the 1940's. To the east of the dwelling is a 19th century tobacco barn that was rebuilt in the 20th century when a new roof was constructed over the existing principal structure and shed addition.

The earliest cultural features surviving on the site today are found near this complex in the family cemetery. The two marble headstones and a single footstone are located on a knoll near the rebuilt tobacco barn. The site includes the grave of a six month old child and a 55 year old male. The stone of John B. Dent 1786-1841 is signed at the base by the stonemason J.H. Shelton, Washington D.C. The child's stone is dated 1847.

The second cluster of buildings is found in a largely wooded area to the northeast. The earliest structure in this cluster is a mid to late-19th century tobacco barn. The barn has a gable roof covered in pressed metal shingles over the original wood shingles. The exterior is covered in vertical board siding and a shed extends the length of the west eave elevation. The barn is five bays in length and is constructed with hewn principal posts. The original narrow doors are found on the north and south gable elevations, while in the 20th century large doors have been cut into the eave elevations to accommodate modern farm machinery. Original wood louvered vents are found on the gable ends. Nearby is a second tobacco barn built in the 20th century. This barn includes a double center isle floor plan and vertical board siding. Hinges near the eave allow boards to be propped open to encourage ventilation. A single center-isle tobacco barn is also found nearby.

The tenant house stands to the north west of the barn complex and consists of a two-story side gable structure with two rooms on the first floor and two rooms above. The dwelling is of frame construction resting on fieldstone piers. A small one-story side-gable addition is situated on the north elevation. The eave elevations have identical fenestration including two windows on the second floor. On the first floor are two windows clustered near the center of the dwelling. The east elevation has a doorway near the south wall that enters into a small stair chamber. The west elevation, although now facing away from the road, was likely the principal elevation with a door near the north wall. The kitchen addition has a door on the east wall. Four-panel Victorian doors are found throughout the house and the walls are covered in horizontal matchstick wainscoting. The kitchen is entirely paneled in matchstick boards.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-790

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1847-1950	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates	1847-1950		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Smoot Property includes an interesting variety of structures reflecting over 150 years of the site's occupation. Of particular interest is the presence of a mid to late 19th century tobacco barn and an 1847 gravestone signed by a Washington D.C. stonemason. Although not yet fully understood, the site may also be one of the first documented examples of an Amish farmstead from the mid-20th century.

During the 17th century, tobacco emerged as the staple crop throughout the region, promising to yield impressive profits that lured many adventurers to the Chesapeake Bay. Like other southern Maryland counties, the exclusive cultivation of tobacco governed the physical development of the county throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. Unlike corn and wheat, tobacco cultivation did not encourage the development of significant urban centers for the shipping and processing of the crop. Instead, the county's landowners remained isolated, on individual farmsteads that comprised small "villages" made up of the main dwelling house, several slave quarters, and ancillary domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Through the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, Charles County continued to thrive on its agricultural and growing commercial trade. Many diversified their interests, investing in corn or wheat cultivation or in commercial industries, such as milling, fishing, and commerce. However, tobacco cultivation continued relatively unchanged until the last quarter of the 20th century.

Faced with dwindling populations and continued economic stagnation, during the 1930's Southern Maryland began to actively recruit immigrants through the efforts of the Southern Maryland Immigration Commission, by the University of Maryland Extension Service. These efforts attracted an Amish and Mennonite population to the area around the Charles County - St. Mary's County boundary. Today, Amish families continue to pursue traditional agricultural practices as well as adapting new skills and practices.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-790

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 50

Acreage of historical setting 303

Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property tax map 58, parcel 7.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 2/7/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-790

Section 9 Page 1

Smoot Property

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Maps

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the
principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....* Philadelphia, PA: J.
Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD:
Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.

ED H. SMITH
13/666
503.54 A.
7

tenant
house

center 18th
tobacco barn

10th c.
tob. barn
double
center 18th
tob. barn

HOUSE
DAIRY

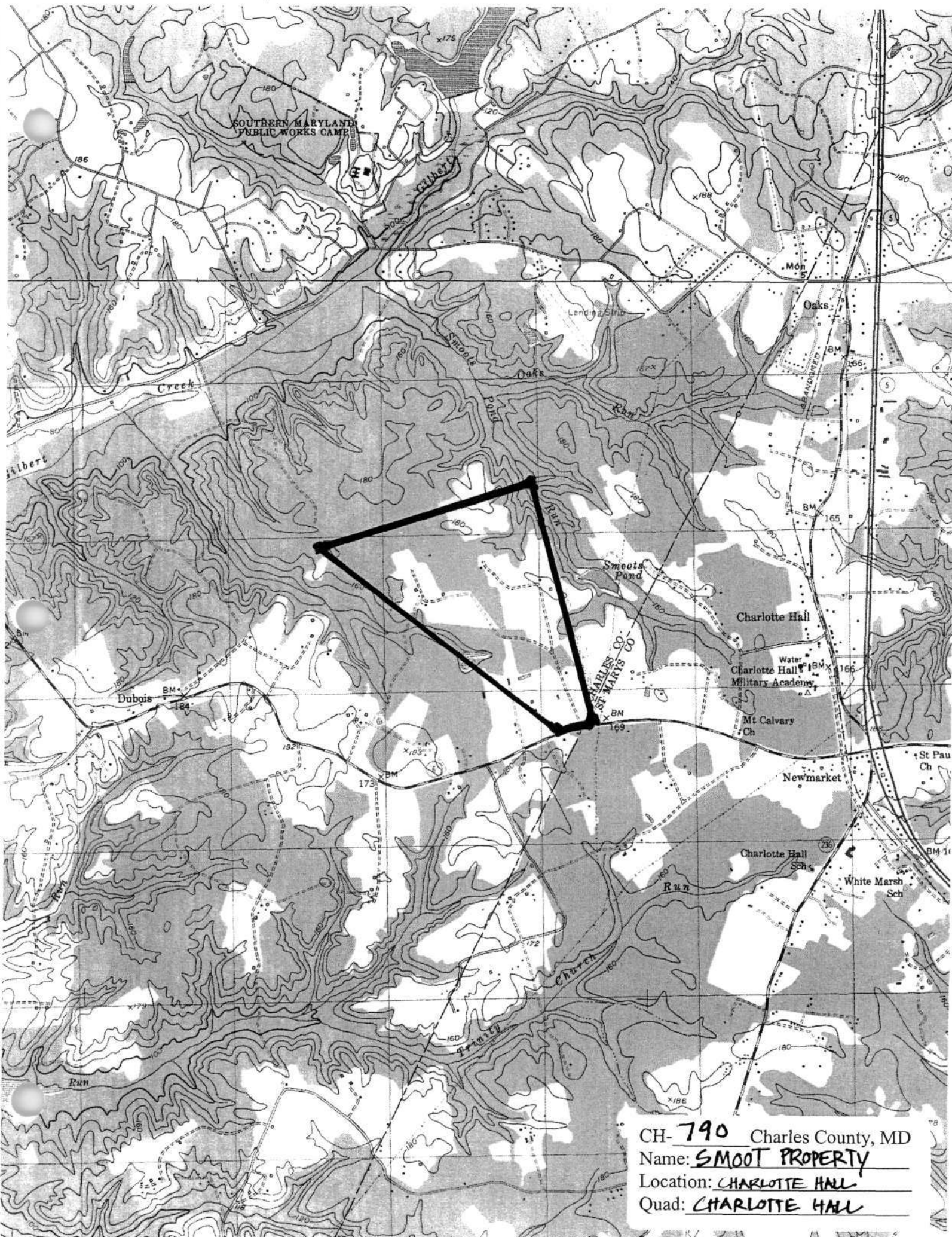
cemetery
10th c.
tob. barn
rebuild

ROLAND E. DARCEY
185/227
56.00 A
P. 4

JACOB J. JONES
192/176
72.41 A.
P. 1

RENÉ BUCHEROV
185/227

CH-790 Charles County, MD
Name: SMOOT PROPERTY
Location: CHARLOTTE HALL VIC.
Quad: CHARLOTTE HALL



CH-790 Charles County, MD
Name: SMOOT PROPERTY
Location: CHARLOTTE HALL
Quad: CHARLOTTE HALL



CH-796
SMOOT PROPERTY
CHARLOTTE HALL, VIC.
11/2003
C. HARDY
MD SHPO
LOOKING ~~W~~ E



CH-790
SMOOT PROPERTY
CHARLOTTE HALL, VIC.
11/2003
C. HARDY
MD SHPO
LOOKING ~~E~~ W



CH 790
SMOOT PROPERTY
CHARLOTTE HALL, VIC
11/2003
C. HARDY
MD SHPO
LOOKING IN



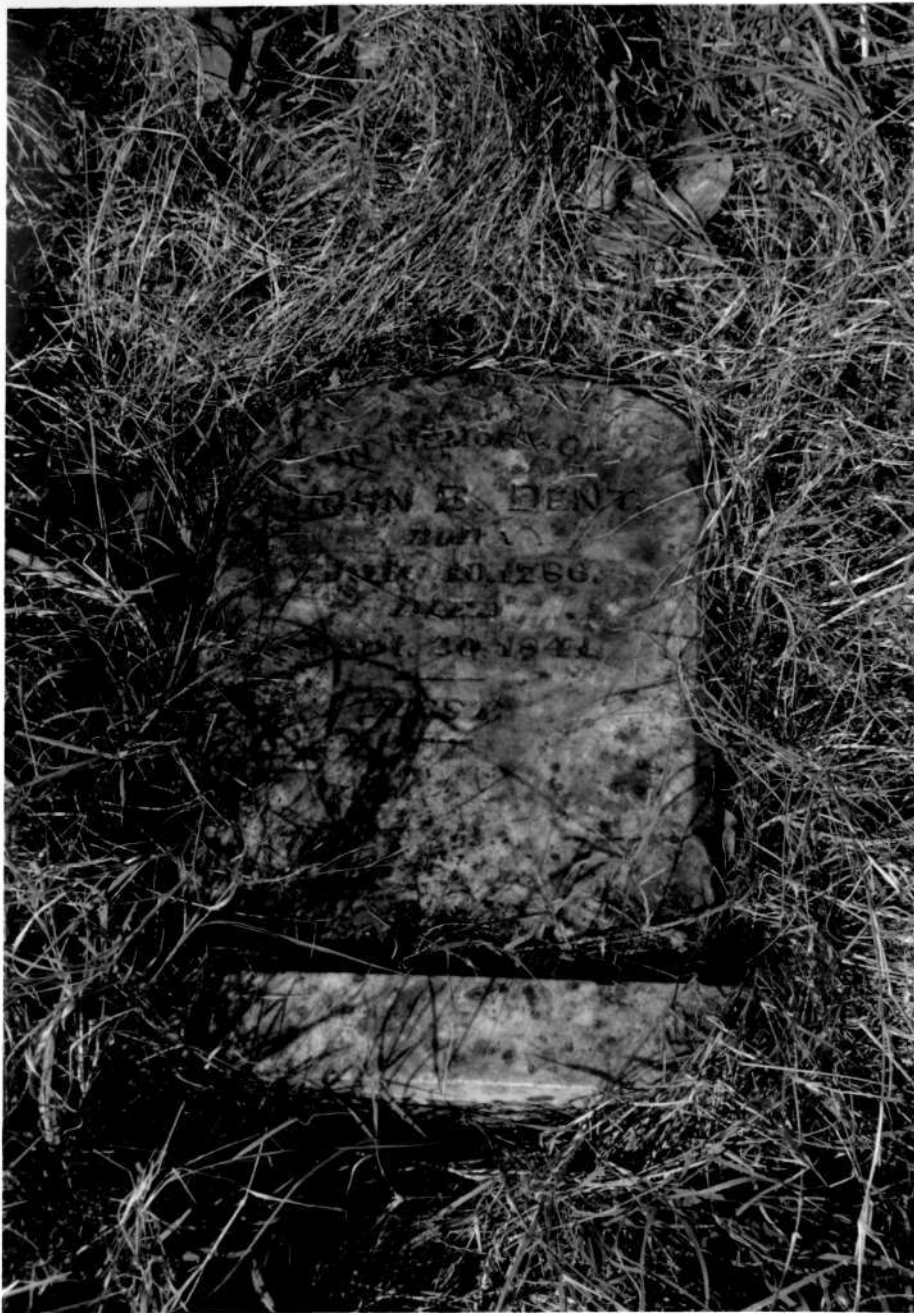
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C. HARDY
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CH 710
SMOOT PROPERTY
CHARLOTTE HALL, VIC

11/2003
C. HARDY
MD SHPO

LOOKINGAW



IN MEMORY OF
JOHN E. DENT
BORN
JAN. 20, 1786.
DIED
OCT. 30, 1841.

CH 790

SMOOT PROPERTY

CHARLOTTE HALL, VIC.

11/2003

C. HARDY

MD SHPO

JOHN DENT STONE



CH-790

SMOOT PROPERTY
CHARLOTTE HALL, VIC.

11/2003

C. HARDY

MD SHPO
LOOKING W